

Air Force Portal: into the future

BY JOHN GILLIGAN

Air Force chief information officer

The Air Force Global Combat Support System or Air Force Portal is one of the most vital and dynamic advancements in technology for the Air Force.

The Air Force Portal was developed because the leadership understands, whether it is an airman basic or the chief of staff, information is not enough.

Portal—a door, gate, or entrance to abundant information

Air Force people often have difficulty locating relevant and useful content online. Our number one requirement is to provide users timely, trusted and accurate information. To make this possible, the Air Force Portal team is dedicated to making your portal experience personal, powerful and essential.

While other Web sites can give you an avalanche of useless data, the Air Force Portal is being designed to give you a relevant flow of information based on your job and interests.

The limits of yesterday's technology can cost you time. We're building the Air Force Portal so you can belong to a community that leverages the latest technology on your behalf. The result: easier access to services that will allow you to do more work online.

We help you cut through the clutter by presenting Air Force content and applications in a consistent, user-friendly manner. From Air Force A-Z to the Top Ten features, we surface essential information. You can find what you want, when you want it.

This project is at a turning point. After a lot of hard work, a powerful framework is ready for new content and applications from the field and our functional communities. The Air Force Portal belongs to you, and we look forward to partnering with you to bring this framework to life.

An Air Force-wide push to register new account holders is the next step. This includes active duty military, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, Air Force civilians, and contract and other Air Force support personnel who have af.mil accounts.

In a recent memo from Secretary of the Air Force James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. John P. Jumper they stated that, "The Air Force Portal will be the Airman's interface to all services and information needed to perform his/her job. All Air Force personnel are to have Air Force Portal accounts by April 2004."

To learn more about the Air Force Portal, how to register, Air Force Instant Messenger, and other upcoming Portal applications visit https://www.cio.hq.af.mil/private/newsletter/index_main.html.

Military 'Bigs' befriend youngsters

BY JENNIFER WEST

Nucleus Staff Writer

When 2nd Lt. Keric Clanahan became a parent nearly six years ago, he was struck by the thought that he'd want someone worthy to help his child if he was no longer able to do his job of being a father. Becoming a "Big," a friend and role model with the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Organization, was his answer to reaching out to a child without a father figure.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central New Mexico matches a child and adult to spend quality time together in a variety of programs, including school-based, community-based or "Crossroads" group programs. The children, 6-14 years old, referred to as "Littles," join with the adults to receive support and attention with caring, responsible volunteers in a one-on-one relationship. The emphasis is on friendship and caring.

Since joining the organization, Lieutenant Clanahan became a father to a second child, now nearly three years old, and his commitment to Big Brothers and Big Sisters has not waned, but rather has become even more dedicated.

"I think Big Brothers and Big Sisters is something you think about doing a long time," Lieutenant Clanahan said. "After a few years of volunteering, you become committed."

"Once I became parent, I thought 'what would it be like if I'm not around to help my kids.'"

Lieutenant Clanahan's "little brother" attends Whittier Elementary School where the Air Force member participates in a school-based program. One hour weekly, the "brothers" can take some time alone to work on the student's school work or they can just hang out with the entire class. And the lieutenant's wife and children sometimes join the "big" and "little" at school activities.

"We're walking, talking 'G.I. Joes,'" Lieutenant Clanahan said of military volunteers. "They are interested in what we do... It's real, and they want to know about the Air Force...and (the volunteers) aren't from the Lieutenant Beaver (Cleaver) world."

Robin Thymes, a Big Brothers/Big Sisters development specialist in Albuquerque, said, the military and other TEAM KIRTLANDers are "one of our best partnerships" because of the pro-volunteerism attitude of the Air Force. And, she said, "you can see the pride of the children in having the military person" joining them at school.

"Too many people pass on this opportunity because they feel they simply don't have the time," Lieutenant Clanahan noted. "With as little as one hour a week, you can really see a positive impact on the attitude, self-esteem, academic performances and overall emotional development of a child."

The different programs offer flexibility to meet the volunteer's limits of free time, whether that is a lunch hour each week or evening group activities.

1st Lt. Ben Koch, said, "The program is a win-win situation because my little brother and I get to do things together and have fun at the same time."

"I'm a kid at heart," he added. With his little brother, he can enjoy playing video games while being a friend to a child.

Mrs. Thymes said the organization provides ways for volunteers to spend time with children at no cost. So, if a servicemember refrains from volunteering because of financial concerns, they need not. Recently, she noted, "Bigs" and "Littles" were sponsored free to enjoy a Popejoy Hall event, participated in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. parade and attended a group pizza party.

Military people from all ranks are welcome to become "Bigs." Lieutenants Clanahan and Koch, both of the Space and Missile Systems Center, can brag that their commander



Photo by Todd Berenger

2nd Lt. Keric Clanahan visits his "little brother" for a lunch-time game of basketball. The boy and lieutenant were matched to spend quality time together through the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Central New Mexico.

also is a Big Brother; Col. James Neumeister was recognized as a runner-up for National Big Brother of 2003.

"I believe that participation in Big Brothers/Big Sisters is an extremely important and valuable investment in our children, our community and the future of our nation," Colonel Neumeister said.

If you would like to learn more about joining the ranks of "Bigs" as a sister or brother, call the organization at 837-9223.

Lieutenant dismissed, confined after 2nd drug conviction

BY MAJ. TIFFANY A. DAWSON

Military Justice chief

For the second time in eight months, a general court martial at Kirtland AFB convicted 2nd Lt. Bryce J. Terpstra of wrongful use of a controlled substance.

On June 9, Lieutenant Terpstra was convicted in a general court martial for using methamphetamine on one occasion before leaving Colorado Springs for Kirtland AFB.

Lieutenant Terpstra had recently graduated from the Air Force Academy and had been on station less than two weeks when he tested positive for methamphetamine. As a result of that court-martial, he was sentenced to four months confinement and a dismissal.

As part of the in processing procedures for confinement, Lieutenant Terpstra was required to provide a urinalysis specimen on June 10. While he was in confinement at the NAVCON

Brig in Miramar, Calif., the government learned that Lieutenant Terpstra's confinement urinalysis tested positive for cocaine. Lieutenant Terpstra was charged with wrongful use of cocaine.

On Feb. 10, Lieutenant Terpstra pled guilty to the charge and elected to be tried by a military judge alone. He was found guilty of the charge.

During his guilty plea, Lieutenant Terpstra admitted to snorting cocaine at a party in the Albuquerque area the weekend before his first court-martial. During his unsworn statement, Lieutenant Terpstra admitted he had made poor decisions in the past but had learned from these mistakes while he was in confinement.

During the sentencing portion of the trial, the defense asked the military judge to forego lengthy confinement based upon Lieutenant Terpstra's efforts to rehabilitate himself. But the

prosecution focused on Lieutenant Terpstra's open defiance of the law and Air Force standards.

The military judge, Lt. Col. Nancy J. Paul, sentenced Lieutenant Terpstra to a dismissal, 12 months confinement and forfeiture of all pay and allowances. Dismissal of an officer is the officer equivalent of a Dishonorable Discharge.

Circuit trial counsel in the case was Capt. Michael J. Coco and assistant trial counsel was Capt. Terry McCollom.

Captain McCollom said, "Lieutenant Terpstra's use of cocaine the weekend before his first court-martial demonstrated an open defiance of the law and basic standards. He will spend the next 12 months re-educating himself on respect for the law and the wrongfulness of using illegal drugs. This sentence shows the value that the military places on respect for the law and its intolerance for those that openly defy it."

NUCLEUS

Supplement
www.kirtland.af.mil



Photo by Todd Berenger

Head ‘em up

A spectacular electronics sale wasn’t just announced. It’s the monthly 377th Mission Support Group physical training day 1.5-mile run on 377th Air Base Wing training day at Hardin Field. Airmen also performed situps, crunches and pushups. The first unit PT day was Feb. 19.

Photo by Todd Berenger

Leaders call for energized suicide-prevention efforts

BY G. W. POMEROY
Air Force Surgeon General
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFPN)—After 11 active-duty suicides since Jan. 1 and 14 during the final quarter of 2003, Air Force senior leaders are asking commanders and leaders across the service to assess and re-energize suicide prevention efforts at all levels.

The 2003 calendar-year suicide rate of 10.5 per 100,000 people was the lowest of all the military services and one-half the rate of a comparable civilian population of males between the ages of 20 and 50. As of Feb. 24, the service’s suicide rate was 18.1.

In a letter sent to all major commands, the Air Force’s acting assistant vice chief of staff urges all Airmen to continue pitching in to reduce the number of suicides.

“Suicide is not stopped by medical personnel in emergency rooms; it is stopped by addressing quality-of-life issues in the unit on a daily basis,” Lt. Gen. Richard E. Brown III wrote in the letter.

“The major components of the Air Force Suicide Prevention Program are active leadership involvement, an emphasis on community involvement and a focus on prevention throughout the life of Airmen and their families, not just when they are suicidal,” General Brown wrote.

“Pay special attention to the quality of your suicide-prevention briefings,” General Brown wrote.

The Air Force requires active-duty members and civilian employees to at-

tend suicide-prevention briefings once during the 15-month air and space expeditionary force cycle.

In light of the recent suicides—none of which occurred during operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom—General Brown urged commanders to “review how well we continue to implement the 11 initiatives that serve as the foundation of the Air Force Suicide Prevention Program.”

The 11 initiatives are outlined in Air Force Pamphlet 44-160, “Air Force Suicide Prevention Program: Description of Program Initiatives and Outcomes.”

The 11 initiatives are:

- ★ build community awareness;
- ★ leadership involvement;
- ★ investigative interview policy;
- ★ professional military education;
- ★ epidemiological database;
- ★ delivery of community preventive services;
- ★ community education and training;
- ★ critical incident stress management;
- ★ integrated delivery system;
- ★ limited patient-psychotherapist privilege; and
- ★ unit risk-factor assessment.

Air Force leaders take a community approach in suicide prevention, encouraging every Airman to take responsibility in reducing the number of suicides.

A key element of the program is to make a steady pipeline of suicide-prevention tools available for Air Force people at all levels. So far in 2004, the Air Force Medical Service has issued

the 2004 Leader’s Guide for Managing Personnel in Distress, which is geared to help commanders, first sergeants and other leaders recognize when their people are distressed and learn how to respond appropriately. It helps commanders link their people to resources and get them help as soon as possible.

The guide presents information on 35 distressing situations, checklists detailing potential behaviors or signs reflective of a person’s reaction to the distressing event, and responses or resources leaders may want to use in responding to a person’s needs.

The guide was distributed on CD-ROM to every squadron commander and first sergeant in the Air Force. The guide can be viewed on the dot-mil-restricted Air Force Suicide Prevention Program Web site, <https://www.afms.mil/afspp>.

Other suicide-prevention tools include:

- ★ “The Air Force Guide for Managing Suicidal Behavior: Strategies, Resources and Tools,” an 88-page clinical guide designed to assist mental-health professionals in assessing and managing high-risk behavior.
- ★ The Air Force Suicide Prevention Web site, which is geared toward improving access to suicide prevention information and materials.
- ★ The 2003 Community Suicide Prevention Briefing, a new multimedia briefing that includes slides and video.
- ★ The 2003 Leadership Suicide Prevention Briefing, a new multimedia briefing involving slides and video. This is geared toward wing, group and squadron commanders.

11 Air Force Suicide Prevention Program foundation initiatives

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- ★ unit risk-factor assessment.

Women in Military tribute, ‘Proudly She Serves’ gala March 5

The Tribute to Women in the Military and the “Proudly She Serves” Gala are **March 5** in the Hilton Hotel, 1901 University Northeast.

The conference includes workshops, exhibits and an open panel discussion.

Registration for the tribute is \$20.

Dinner-dance

The dinner-dance gala starts with cocktails at 6 p.m. and opening ceremonies, 7-7:15 p.m. Dinner is until 8:30 p.m. Awards will be presented until 9 p.m., followed by dancing until midnight.

Tickets are \$20 for a single and \$38 a couple.

Make checks payable to VVNM/VVA-TRIBUTEXIX and send them to Tribute XIX, P.O. Box 91775, Albuquerque, N.M. 87199-1775.

Contact Lt. Col. Dorothy Silvanic, 846-0063, or Master Sgt. Jacqueline Pennington-Colvil, 846-7525. For registration, contact Betty Brooks, 821-1092.